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BIRDS AT LOKOYA, NAPA COUNTY

Vacation time, for many of us, means an opportunity to visit new territory for the study and, in my case at least, the photography of birds. Because of a plan to be in the vicinity of Lokoya, Napa County, on June 8th, I started a day earlier with a view of making a more extensive survey of the area.

Driving up toward Lokoya on the afternoon of the 7th, at a point about 3 miles below the junction of Mill Creek and the North Fork of Napa Creek, the sight of approximately 20 tree swallows hawking insects along the creek stopped me. It proved to be such a fertile bird spot that I spent three hours there. I found chats feeding young (their persistent calling drew me across the creek into the dense cover to investigate); western tanagers; black-headed grosbeaks; lutescent, yellow and pileolated warblers; lazuli bunting; Bewick wrens; 6 species of raptors (including one red-shouldered hawk squeeling and one prairie falcon); and many resident birds. Here and on up Mt. Veedor Road were ash-throated and western flycatchers, black phoebes, wood pewees, and western kingbirds; a total of 51 species.

The next two nights were spent at Lokoya Guest Ranch, which, because of the many types of cover, from orchards, open and brushy fields, through oaks, stream and ponds, to redwoods, was literally filled with birds. Seen were only a total of 42 species but in quantities. The corral salt lick gave a pair of Lawrence goldfinches. Another open area a pair of western bluebirds. An early morning walk produced 12 Macgillivray warblers, 8 winter wrens probably a family as some of them were obviously awkward), and 10 Bewick wrens; (all of which came readily to sqeeking); a cowbird, russet-backed and hermit thrushes (singing) and many others. But perhaps the most exciting sound of the morning was the distinctive rapping of a pileated woodpecker higher up the mountainside.

Late in the afternoon we drove to Lokoya Lodge about 600 feet higher up the mountain (estimated altitude 1350 feet) and the first thing that met our eyes was a pileolated woodpecker feeding young. Their heads were reaching from a nesting hole approximately 25 feet up in a partially dead madrone directly in front of the Lodge office. The chance for a picture was too good to miss so I arranged reservations for the next day and came back to try my luck. Last year I spent four days on Howell Mountain, altitude 2000, Napa

County, photographing pileated woodpeckers which were nesting there, and studying the birds of that area, but had not been able to stay long enough to get pictures of the young being fed outside the nest. So at eight the next morning I set up my camera by the nest and waited until five for the birds and light to be right. During the day the adult birds came in at irregular intervals of an hour to an hour and a half to feed the two young, a male and a female, which struggled for the advantage of position in the nest opening. The young male was the most aggressive, maintaining his place with one foot resting on the edge of the hole three quarters of the time and calling loudly in much the manner and voice of the adult, "cook-cook-cook. . . ." The grounds' keeper told us that the young had been out of the nest for a short flight the day before but they did not leave the nest during the time I watched. The manager of the Lodge said that they had watched the whole operation from the first exploratory rapping in March through completion of the excavation about three weeks later and the coming and going of the adults through incubating, brooding and feeding of the young. I have been informed that the young left the nest on the 13th of June. While I have never observed that this species has much fear of human beings it must be considered most unusual to find them nesting in a place so close to human habitation.

Pileated woodpeckers were not the only attraction at the lodge as there were white breasted nuthatches, creepers, russet-backed and hermit thrushes, Audubon and hermit warblers singing (I watched a hermit warbler singing up in the top of a Douglas) and, of course, Stellar jays, western tanagers, black-headed grosbeaks, Oregon juncos, etc. Anyone visiting the lodge should be sure to visit the old vineyard for the birds prefering more open environment. That is where I found Macgillivray warblers feeding young, and flushed a female greenbacked goldfinch from her nest at eye level (found three eggs). 35 species were seen at the Lodge. Many of the species listed were seen in all three areas covered, but the total number of species seen during the three days was 61, not a large number but interesting.

Russell H. Pray, Berkeley, Calif.

JULY FIELD TRIP

Twenty-three members and guests of the Golden Gate Audubon Society answered the seven o'clock call on July 17 in north-west San Francisco. Led by Arthur Myer, the group visited the Veterans' Hospital grounds at Fort Miley, Lincoln Park, Lands' End, and Sutro Heights. Excellent weather, hazy but mostly sunny, was encountered. The most outstanding feature of the trip was the pigeon guillemots, which were seen at close range. A nest containing two young was found on a jutting point of the mainland. Numerous cormorants were seen, some of which were apparently sitting on nests on off-shore rocks. Once a gigantic V of birds swept out to sea. Both double-crested and Brandt's were probably present, though neither was positively identified. The nest of a flicker with young was also found.

The following 30 species were identified:

Brown pelican	Allen hummingbird	Hutton vireo
Cormorant (sp?)	Red-shafted flicker	House sparrow
Red-tailed hawk	Downy woodpecker	Brewer blackbird
California quail	Cliff swallow	House finch
Glaucous-winged gull	Raven	Pine siskin
Western gull	Chestnu-bk. chickadee	Common goldfinch
Heerman gull	Bush-tit	Spotted towhee
Caspian tern	Wren-tit	Oregon junco
Pigeon guillemot	Bewick wren	White-cr. sparrow
Anna hummingbird	Robin	Song sparrow

A. Laurence Curl, Historian

SPECIAL MAY FIELD TRIP

On May 28, 16 members and guests met in Golden Gate Park, Arthur Bennett leading. The weather was overcast but mild. Highlights: a pair of mallards and 11 ducklings, a black-crowned night heron feeding at the edge of northern Chain of Lakes, and the constant song of the russet-backed thrushes. The following 26 species were observed: black-crowned night heron, mallard, pintail, canvas-back, ruddy duck, California quail, coot, mourning dove, Anna and Allen hummingbird, olive-sided flycatcher, cliff swallow, chestnut-backed chickadee, bush-tit, robin, russet-backed thrush, Cassin vireo, pileolated warbler, English sparrow, Brewer blackbird, house finch, pine siskin, green-backed goldfinch, spotted towhee, white-crowned and song sparrows.

Alfreda C. Berg, Historian

SPECIAL JUNE FIELD TRIP

A dozen Audubon members met at Diamond Park Saturday, June 25th at 8:30 a.m. The morning was cloudy and cold, but the birds were active, and in 3 hours we saw 27 species, chiefly in a small radius near the picnic tables. The following species were identified: California quail, mourning dove, Anna and Allen hummingbird, downy woodpecker, western and olive-sided flycatcher, barn swallow, California jay, plain titmouse, robin, russet-bk. thrush, Hutton and warbling vireo, yellow and pileolated warbler, house sparrow, Brewer blackbird, cowbird, bl.-headed grosbeak, purple and house finch, green-bk. goldfinch, spotted and brown towhee, junco, song sparrow.

C. R. Stowell, Historian

A SCHOLARSHIP TO AUDUBON NATURE CAMP OF CALIFORNIA was voted at the June meeting. It was awarded to Miss Dale Robbins, director of the junior department of the Oakland Museum.

NEW MEMBERS: We welcome the following: from San Francisco, Miss Vera G. Kirkpatrick; from Oakland, Mr. and Mrs. Hugo F. Holm, Miss Constance Lovett, Mr. J. R. Parker; from Berkeley, Mrs. E. G. Beck, Mr. W. K. Dunlap, Miss Alice B. Leet, Miss Ethel E. Lucas, and Miss Zama Taylor.

AUGUST MEETING

The 383rd meeting of the Golden Gate Audubon Society will be held on August 11 at 6:30 p.m. in the garden of Dr. and Mrs. Eric Reynolds, 140 Estates Drive, Piedmont. A potluck supper will be enjoyed preceding the regular meeting. Each member attending will contribute one item of food and then pay one dollar for dinner, to be placed in a Special Purpose Fund. Members will enjoy themselves and get acquainted with each other. Post cards have already been sent out regarding the affair. The regular meeting will be held after supper, and a social time will follow. Reservations will close August 8th. Miss Clelia Paroni, 575 Vincente Ave., Berkeley 7 (LAndscape 5-6895) is in charge of reservations. Bus 18 A on Franklin St. goes out Park Blvd. Get off at Leimert St., continue on Park Blvd. one block to Estates Drive, walk two short blocks to 140. **Laurel Reynolds**, Program Chm.

AUGUST FIELD TRIP

The August field trip will be on Sunday, the 14th, to Tennessee Cove, Marin County. The party will meet at the Associated Service Station at the junction of Hiway 101 and 1 near Manzanita, this side of the Richardson Bay bridge at 8:30 a.m. Those taking the Greyhound bus will leave 7th and Mission Sts., S.F. at 8:10 a.m. and get off at Tamalpais Valley station. The trip will be led by Mr. Kenneth Schulz. Carry lunches, bring interested friends, and binoculars.

SPECIAL AUGUST FIELD TRIP

On Saturday, August 27 to Fleishhacker Playfield and Zoo and also to Lake Merced. Party will meet at the entrance to the Playfield at 8:30 a.m. This was formerly a favorite birding spot for members of the Society. Miss Margaret Milwain will lead the trip. Bring interested friends. The "L" car is best for this trip. Bring lunch if you so desire.

Golden Gate Audubon Society

formerly

Audubon Association of the Pacific

Organized January 25, 1917

For the Study and the Protection of Birds

Branch of National Audubon Society

President.....Mrs. Ethel Richardson.....887 Indian Rock Ave., Berkeley 7

Corresponding Secretary.....Mr. Joseph J. Webb.....519 California St., San Francisco 4

Treasurer.....Miss Ivander MacIver.....2414 Telegraph Ave., Berkeley 4

Editor.....Miss Minnie H. Young.....2726 Prince Street, Berkeley 5

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Assembly Room, San Francisco Public Library, Larkin and McAllister Sts., San Francisco

Alternate months Oakland

Joint membership, Local & National $5.00 per Year includes Audubon Magazine

Local dues only, $1.50 per year. Student Membership, 75 cts.